TASK FORCE RUSSIA -- BIWEEKLY REPORT 14-27 NOVEMBER 1992 10TH REPORT

TASK FORCE RUSSIA (POW/MIA)

REPORT TO THE U.S. DELEGATION, U.S.-RUSSIAN JOINT COMMISSION ON POW/MIAs

27 NOVEMBER 1992

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

This report has been prepared for the use of the Commission in pursuit of our mission. While it is an unclassified document in accordance with Department of Defense classification guidelines for POW/MIA information, it nonetheless contains casualty-related information and should not be disseminated outside of Commission channels pending efforts by the Department of Defense Executive Agent to locate and notify as many of the next of kin as feasible.

BIWEEKLY REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

TASK FORCE RUSSIA (POW/MIA)

Period of Report: 14 NOV--27 NOV 1992

1. SUMMARY: The highlight of this reporting period was a series of interviews conducted by the Moscow Office of Task Force Russia (TFR-M). Although none of these interviews offered dramatic new insights into the issue of U.S. POW/MIAs who may have been transferred to the former Soviet Union, taken collectively they illustrate the difficulties inherent in the TFR research effort. These interviews are summarized in paragraph 3. TFR-M engaged in a strenuous program of field site visits, ranging as far as Magadan--7,218 air miles east of Moscow. TFR-M also coordinated interviews and research with U.S. embassies in non-Russian republics, such as Ukraine, Latvia and Kazakhstan. The Washington Office (TFR-W) worked intensively on providing OSD with new information on the status of individual Korean War-era service members gleaned from the analysis of documents provided by the Russian side of the Joint Commission and tested against U.S. archival sources. Analysts have identified the grave sites of three U.S. POWs of the Germans who died on what is now Lithuanian soil (see below). Additionally, overall archival research continues to expand. An interim list of the archives explored by TFR-W is attached as Annex A. TFR-W also reinforced TFR-M with a temporary transfer of personnel.

2. UPDATE ON ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS:

A. A team from TFR-M travelled to Odessa and Sevastopol to interview, respectively, historian Roman Shuvalov ("Odessa Four") and Georgiy Sergeyevich Volkov (Kurile Island grave site claims). The results are summarized in paragraph 3.

B. As recommended in the last Biweekly, TFR-M has further expanded its efforts into the non-Russian republics of the former Soviet Union. This expansion has been coordinated with the appropriate embassies and agencies, each of which has consistently been cooperative and helpful, even to the extent of pursuing leads on their own initiative, despite lean embassy staffing and the tremendous demands of establishing embassies in countries struggling to emerge from the former Soviet Union. Amembassy Kiev has repeatedly sponsored visits and has assisted in locating sources. Although a number of embassies have supported TFR during its existence, within this reporting period special support came from Amembassy Alma Ata, which assisted TFR- M in locating prospective sources of information; from Amembassy Riga, which facilitated interviews summarized below; and Amembassy Tallinn, which passed on information received from residents of Estonia on possible past sightings of U.S. service members or affiliated individuals. Amembassy Vilnius energetically assisted the TFR interview process. [TFR is grateful for the unstinting support provided by the Department of State, which has contributed significantly to our ability to get the job done on behalf of our POW/MIA personnel and their families.]

C. TFR-W searched for resources which might help interview subjects identify specific U.S. POW/MIAs.

3. SIGNIFICANT INTERVIEWS, CONTACTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED:

A. As briefly described in the last Biweekly Report (13 November 1992), TFR-M conducted an in-depth interview with Pavel Ponomaryov, who claims to have air-ferried two probable Americans from Laos to North Vietnam in 1962. This more detailed summary is based upon a follow-on report provided by TFR-M during the subsequent reporting period.

(1) Ponomaryov served 20 years as an officer/navigator in Military Transport Aviation (VTA), retiring as a major for health reasons. He is currently president of the Moscow Union of Veterans of Afghanistan.

(2) In February 1962, then-Senior Lieutenant Ponomaryov served as a navigator in the Soviet 708th VTA Regiment, which consisted of two squadrons stationed in Hanoi. In March 1962, his squadron transferred to Vinh, North Vietnam. According to Ponomaryov, his squadron was subordinate to the KGB, not to the Ministry of Defense, for the duration of its assignment to Vietnam (normally units were rotated after one year). The unit commander was Major Pyotr Konstantinovich Chivkunov. The unit had two missions: to drop ammunition and supplies into the Van Viyeng Valley (Plain of Jars) in Laos, and to ferry North Vietnamese personnel and supplies from Vinh to an airstrip called Tchepone, inside Laos on the border of South Vietnam.

(3) Ponomaryov recalled frequently seeing American pilots while flying over the Plain of Jars. Sometimes they would communicate over the radio, and Ponomaryov felt that the relationship was friendly. He commented that the Americans never shot at him, although they had many opportunities. The Americans did, however, buzz him and laugh. Ponomaryov claimed that he acquired a liking for Americans because of his experience in Laos. After the three warring princes of Laos signed a peace agreement on 9 November, 1962, he often saw Americans on the same airfield with Russians in Vientiane. The quality of the American equipment and maintenance impressed him. He noted that the Americans were much better equipped and dressed than the Soviets. Both sides dressed in civilian clothes.

(4) Ponomaryov's unit flew AN-2's and IL-14's. His aircraft was an An-2, bort number 7205. On the two occasions when Ponomaryov believes he may have ferried American prisoners, the procedure was identical. Pick-up was at an airstrip in Tchepone, Laos. As soon as his AN-2 touched down at Vinh, the Americans were immediately taken off the plane and transferred to a North Vietnamese IL-14 parked 20 meters away. The IL-14 took off immediately.

(5) Both of the male Caucasians ferried by Ponomaryov's aircraft were transferred within a few days of each other following the 1962 monsoon season (possibly August or September). The pilot's name was Aleksandr Leonidovich Matkin. Ponomaryov had minimal contact with the suspected Americans, since both were escorted by Vietnamese who did not permit any communication between the prisoners and the Soviets. Ponomaryov remembered the passengers as quiet--not uttering a single word.

(6) Ponomaryov described the first individual as six feet tall, with blond or light-colored hair, about 28 years old, and very good looking. He believed he could still recognize this man from a contemporary photograph. Ponomaryov described the second individual as somewhat shorter than the first prisoner and about the same age. Neither man showed any evidence of wounds or identifying marks. They wore "regular" shoes, shirts draped outside their trousers, and no military insignia. Ponomaryov was told by local Vietnamese soldiers that the Caucasians were American pilots.

(7) Ponomaryov offered the current address of the pilot of his aircraft, A.L. Matkin: Moscow Oblast', City of Klin, Ulitsa Mira D-20A, Apt. 33, Tel. 8-224-264-23. Although Ponomaryov believed that the squadron commander, Chivkunov, knew more about the missions than he did himself, the latter would not discuss the subject since all personnel involved in the transport mission in Southeast Asia had signed non-disclosure statements. Ponomaryov also recalled a KGB representative named (FNU) Gorlanov, whose mission consisted of watching the Soviet aircrews (not the persons or objects being transported). Ponomaryov did not know much about Gorlanov except that he had no real job and drank a great deal.

Later, Ponomaryov said he had learned from a KGB friend (whose name he would not reveal) that TFR-M should contact Lieutenant General (Retired) Leonid Vladimirovich Shebardin. Shebardin currently works in the Moscow KGB Museum and supposedly might be able to provide additional information. [Note: TFR-M will attempt to contact LTG (Retd.) Shebardin].

(8) Of background interest, Ponomaryov has encountered considerable difficulties in gaining his proper veteran's benefits, since "officially" he never served in Vietnam. The formal Russian governmental position has not changed, and his service record for 1962 merely noted that he had been on special assignment for that year. Only when he threatened to "go public" with his story did he begin to get results. Now he and his comrades who served in Vietnam have received three years' credit for each year of their mission. Also, Ponomaryov only learned that his unit had been, as he believes, under KGB control when he found that the Ministry of Defense records were blank and a serving officer in the Air Force Headquarters explained to him that he "was not knocking on the right door." Further, he was frequently discouraged from pursuing the matter. As for cooperating with TFR-M, Ponomaryov mentioned that several friends had urged him not to cooperate in the POW/MIA search because of possible security service reaction.

[Analyst's Comment: TFR-M found Ponomaryov highly credible and fully cooperative. His story and its details are compelling; however, it is important to state clearly that Ponomaryov claims no knowledge of any transfers of U.S. personnel to the territory of the former Soviet Union. The interview does suggest that the fates of U.S. service members or citizens who went missing in the early stages of U.S. engagement in Southeast Asia await final resolution. Along this line, the last Biweekly Report (13 November 1992) stated that "the earliest known U.S. POW in Vietnam was captured in 1964. n While this is correct in the sense that the earliest capture date for a repatriated POW was 1964, the list of unaccounted for service members and civilians in Vietnam and Laos reaches back to 1961. TFR-W is currently examining two instances of individuals who went missing at the approximate time and place of the Ponomaryov flights.]

MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 231825Z NOV 92

B. TFR-M interviewed historian Roman Alexeyevich Shuvalov in Odessa. Shuvalov had previously given an interview to ABC's "20/20" television crew, which was shown in an edited form on American television. The TV commentators then claimed that the U.S. Government had "abandoned" its GIs to Stalin. TFR-M provided Shuvalov with a cassette of the "20/20" segment and explained its contents. TFR-M also explained what had actually happened to each of the service members or merchant mariners who had been temporarily interred in Odessa. Shuvalov was surprised at the thrust of the "20/20" segment. His key observations and comments were:

--He readily agreed with the information on the service members provided by TFR-M and stated that he could not understand why a reporter from "20/20" had made the claim that the U.S. Government did not know anything about these graves.

--He stated that he had known that at least two sets of the U.S. service members' remains had been repatriated in the post-war period.

--He gave the name of another possible American buried in Odessa. Shuvalov believes this individual was of Japanese descent and Buddhist faith and therefore was most likely buried in the Jewish Cemetery, as was the practice at the time. Shuvalov added that the Jewish Cemetery was liquidated in the 1960's and that no records remained to indicate where the possible American is buried now. [Note: TFR is withholding the name until the records have been fully researched to verify whether the individual was a U.S. service member or merchant mariner, and pending any possible notification of next of kin].

-- He said that he knew of no other American graves ln Odessa. He has, however, located the graves of other foreign citizens.

--He provided three local newspaper articles that described the U.S. POW presence in Odessa. The first

article highlighted a hospital that successfully treated each of its POW patients prior to their repatriation. The article claimed there were no POW deaths in the hospital. The second piece was a "human interest" article about a Soviet Army musician who had been given an American songbook by one of the departing American servicemen. The last article gave a general history of U.S. POWs in transit en route back to the U.S. following their liberation by the Red Army.

[NOTE: A TFR-M delegation, escorted by Shuvalov and a Moscow television crew, visited the grave sites where the Americans had been interred prior to their repatriation (and where Cairo may still be interred) and paid their respects to the deceased service members.]

MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 171041Z NOV 92

C. TFR-M interviewed Georgiy Sergeyevich Volkov in Sevastopol. Volkov had previously sent two letters to TFR-M detailing a claim that U.S. POWs of the Japanese had been used as slave labor to construct an airfield on the Kurile island of Iturup; that many of these POWs had died due to the inhuman conditions under which they lived and labored, and that the dead were buried in a mass grave or graves on Iturup. TFR has pursued this claim in full awareness of the complex political dimensions and sensitivities surrounding the issue of whether or not any of the Kurile Islands might be returned to Japan. The interview with Volkov, who is eighty-five years old, provided the following additional information or claims:

--Volkov reiterated that he has no direct personal knowledge of the presence of U.S. POWs or POW grave sites on Iturup. His information came from two companions, Shcherbakov and Zhitunov, with whom he became acquainted during a working administrative exile on Iturup from 1955 to 1957. Volkov believes that both of these men are now dead.

--Volkov also believes that, as the war was coming to a close, some POWs may have been placed on a Japanese ship which was then purposefully sunk by the Japanese not far from Iturup's Sopochnaya Bay.

--Volkov is convinced that many of the residents of the Iturup villages of Reydovoy, Kurilsk, Aktivny and Sonochny could confirm his information.

--Volkov repeated his earlier suggestion that TFR-M work with "Pravda" journalist Vsevolod Ovchinikov, who has conducted some preliminary research on this issue.

--Volkov recommended that the search for the graves start at Yasnaya Bay on the south side of the island. He noted, however, that the ruins of the airstrip, as well as the abandoned mine galleries where the POWs were reportedly held, are located near Sopochnaya Bay. Volkov then suggested that the likeliest site for the grave site is midway between Sopochnaya Bay and the village of Kurilsk. He provided a sketch, which is being analyzed by TFR-W.

--He believes as many as four hundred POWs were forced to lived in the abandoned caves and mine shafts above Sopochnaya Bay, but implied that they may not all have been Americans.

--To the surprise of TFR-M, Volkov said that he had been visited by Lieutenant-colonel Sergei Osipov and a television crew on 1 September 1992, and that he was given General Volkogonov's calling card. TFR-M recently confirmed with the Russian side of the Joint Commission that this meeting had, indeed, taken place.

[Analyst's Note: TFR-M believes that Volkov is convinced of the veracity of the story he has to tell. He remains, however, only a hearsay witness, and the next step will be to interview Iturup residents. This may require a delay until the extremely severe winter weather has passed. Volkov observed that the only reasonable period for grave excavations would be in August and early September. TFR-W remains convinced that this lead is worth pursuing, despite the physical obstacles involved. While the Government of Japan has stated frankly that there were no POW camps on Iturup, we believe that this is a result of "asking the wrong question." There were, in fact, no formal POW camps on Iturup. Building the airstrip

was a limited construction project which would have been managed by the provisional use of POWs drawn from formal camps. In order to verify or deny the use of POWs for such purposes, Japanese researchers would need to examine extant camp records for temporary detachments of prisoners for construction projects or unspecified utilization in the latter period of the war. TFR-W continues to believe that the logic of POW exploitation for the construction of this airstrip (which is known to exist) makes good sense. As Japanese power declined in the Pacific war, manpower shortages would have made the use of POWs for such strenuous and unpleasant duties extremely attractive. Volkov added a new wrinkle, however, with his intimation that not all of the prisoners may have been Americans. Certainly, there were plenty of prisoners from other Allied nations who could also have been used. Alternatively, impressed manpower from Korea or China could have been applied to the problem. The tales told to Volkov during his stay on Iturup do, however, suggest Caucasians--Americans, Brits, Australians, New Zealanders, Dutch...if nothing else, TFR feels strongly that serious questions remain to be answered regarding the issue of WWII-era graves on Iturup.

MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 271134Z NOV 92

D. After a great deal of investigative effort, TFR-M tracked down retired North Korean MVD Lieutenant General Kan San Kho at a private residence in Moscow. Kan's name had been given to TFR-M by Colonel Korotkov, generally an excellent source, as someone likely to be knowledgeable on the subject of the handling of U.S. POWs during the Korean War. Kan consented to an interview, then spent the interview denying any knowledge of U.S. POWs .

(1) Kan was born in 1909 in Suchan, near Vladivostok, and grew up as a Soviet citizen. He was called to active military service in 1943. Kan served as a junior officer in the 25th Army, which supplanted the Japanese in Korea at the end of WWII. According to Kan, Kim Il Sung was allowed to submit a list to Stalin of Soviet officers of Korean descent whom Kim wanted to keep in North Korea to support his cause. Kan was on this list and was posted to Pyongyang from 1948 to 1953 as the Director, Central Party School. After the cessation of hostilities, Kan received an appointment as deputy head of the North Korean MVD, in which position he served until 1957, when he became the North Korean negotiator at the Panmunjom Peace Talks until 1958. He returned to the USSR in late 1959.

(2) Under repeated questioning, Kan insisted that the NK MVD had no contacts with the NK Army during the time he was the NK MVD Deputy Director, and that he had no personal knowledge of or contacts with U.S. POWs during his service in North Korea. He claimed that the NK Army exclusively dealt with POWs and that his organization dealt solely with spies and criminals, of whom none were American. He stated that he knew nothing about the possible transport of POWs to China or to the USSR either during or after the Korean War. Further, Kan claimed that, while working as a peace negotiator, U.S. General Wilson raised the issue of U.S. POWs still held in China. Kan stated that he then queried the NK Army Chief of Staff, who said he had no knowledge whatsoever of U.S. POWs held in the post-war period.

(3) TFR-M had been asked to query Kan about a Captain First Rank Palli, who was alleged to have been a KGB operative in Vietnam following training in North Korea. Kan said he had never met nor had any knowledge of such a man.

(4) Kan admitted that the NK MVD sent both North and South Koreans to prison camps throughout the USSR. While most of the camps were in the Siberian taiga, some were located in Central Asia near Tashkent. He estimated that Koreans went to between 300-400 Soviet camps, but offered no overall number of prisoners.

(5) Kan gave the names, addresses and phone numbers of two retired officers living in Tashkent, Lee San Cho and Yu San Cho, the latter of whom worked with Kim Il Sung in Khabarovsk during WWII. [Note: TFR-M will follow up on these leads.]

[Analyst's Note: TFR-M interviewers felt unconvinced by Kan's denial of all knowledge on the POW issue. Given his positions, he would have known at least the broad outlines of NK policy regarding this

matter. TFR-M believes Kim may have been directly involved with POWs and is reluctant to compromise his past.]

MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 271140Z NOV 92

E. TFR-M travelled to Riga and interviewed General Colonel (Retd.) Fedor Ivanovich Shinkarenko, who commanded the unit that downed the U.S. PB4Y2 on April 8, 1950 (the "Reynolds Crew"). Shinkarenko, who was fully cooperative, reaffirmed his conviction that no U.S. crew members survived the incident. He cited his recollection of pilot debriefs and extreme weather conditions. He had no information as to the possible recovery of crew member remains. The highlights of the interview were:

--Shinkarenko stated that some items of equipment and aircraft parts were recovered from the aircraft. He claimed that, initially, the Soviets intended to produce the recovered parts before the United Nations for propaganda purposes, but that the intelligence value of the gear overrode the desire for a propaganda victory and the recovery was kept secret.

--Shinkarenko pointedly repeated previous statements to the effect that he had heard nothing whatsoever about the possible recovery of members of the downed crew.

--He confirmed the approximate point of impact of the downed aircraft.

--When questioned about rumors of parachutes from the downed aircraft, Shinkarenko firmly maintained that his earlier statements to Mrs. Reynolds were accurate: that the likelihood of parachutes or survivors was nearly nonexistent. He said his pilots described the plane as exploding in a fireball after being hit, but admitted that the fog and adverse weather conditions prevented his pilots from seeing the final results of their efforts.

--Shinkarenko confirmed that, at the time of the shootdown, the independent air corps he commanded had been deployed to Palanga for the specific purpose of intercepting U.S. reconnaissance aircraft that had been, according to Shinkarenko, violating Soviet airspace.

--Queried about records, Shinkarenko said that, upon the disbanding of his unit in 1953, a special commission of officers convened to destroy all of the locally-held records. He gave the name of Colonel (Retd.) Nikolai Ivanovich Ryzhov, a former comrade and local resident how could confirm that the unit's records had been destroyed. He assumed, however, that the reports he had sent forward to higher headquarters could still be in the Moscow Ministry of Defense archives.

[Analyst's Note: Shinkarenko was cooperative and forthcoming during the interview, and appeared highly credible. TFR remains aware, however, that his testimony does not answer all of the outstanding questions and we will continue to pursue this incident. Shinkarenko is willing to submit to further interviews, should this prove worthwhile at some future time. TFR-M immediately followed up on the Ryzhov lead, and met the retired colonel at the Hotel Latvia. Ryzhov confirmed Shinkarenko's claims and, he suggested that TFR-M request what he described as Air Force "bulletins on lessons learned from the downing of U.S. aircraft violating Soviet borders." He said that such documents were produced routinely after shootdowns for training purposes. Ryzhov also believed that KGB files would hold parallel reports on all border-related incidents.]

MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 291216Z NOV 92

F. TFR-M deployed a team, with a Russian escort, to two major (former-Soviet) prison camp centers, Tomsk and Magadan. The team conducted a partial search of the local Ministry of Internal Affairs archives and regional archives. No documentary evidence emerged to support the contention that U.S. POW/MIAs had been held within these regional camp systems; however, not all possibilities have been exhausted in what were two vast and vital segments of the GULAG system.

MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 271452Z NOV 92

4. SIGNIFICANT LETTERS/PHONE CONTACTS: Some time ago, AMEMBASSY TALLINN received a letter from a Mr. Leo Sipelgas. Source claimed that, while he was in an international prison camp near Dzezgazgani, Kazakhstan, he met two Americans. The prisoners were working in a copper mine. Both Americans were young. One was white, one black. Both had been arrested by the Soviet Army in the Soviet sector of Berlin in 1951. They were accused of espionage and sentenced to ten years. The black man came from "Dakoota." Source remembered both men as kind. They played basketball very well and the white American, "Billy," played the saxophone. Source left the camp in 1954 and never heard from the two men again. [Note: TFR will correlate this information with U.S. personnel records for possible matches.]

MSG CITE: JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC 131519Z NOV 92

5. SIGNIFICANT ARCHIVES OR OTHER DOCUMENTS OBTAINED: TFR-M and the U.S. Assistant Air Attache visited the Moscow Aviation Institute (MAI) to examine and photograph an F-111 crew capsule. They were met by Professor Yuri Petrovich Plotnikov, head of the International Relations Division of MAI. Plotnikov could not answer many of the questions posed to him about the history of the capsule, but promised to try to find some of the information. The names of the weapons systems officer and the crew chief were still legible where they had been stencilled on the exterior of the capsule, but the pilot's name had been erased (either intentionally or unintentionally). It was clear, however, that the pilot had been a captain. When TFR-W searched the pertinent lists of unaccounted for service members, the names were not found. Further records checks have yet to yield any positive results; however, TFR-W will continue to pursue this lead. Additionally, the visit team shot a roll of film, including photos of the crew capsule. The film recently arrived at TFR-W. Any new information derived therefrom will be reported in a future Biweekly Report.

MSG CITE: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 252119Z NOV 92

6. SIGNIFICANT CONUS ACTIVITIES:

A. TFR-W engaged in extensive archival research to complement the efforts of TFR-M. Additionally, analysts prepared notification recommendations on a series of specific Korean War- era cases. These documents will be forwarded to OSD following a final scrutiny process to insure that TFR does not instigate the transmittal of incorrect information to next-of-kin by any agency.

B. In the course of TFR-W's research, a number of interesting stories have emerged. The latest concerns Americans who died in German POW camps and were interred on what became Soviet soil. In 1948, the U.S. paid the Soviet Union 204,000 rubles to recover and return the remains of 24 American servicemen believed to be buried on Soviet territory. The Soviets returned 15 bodies and claimed they could not locate the others. In 1950, the U.S. paid the Soviets an additional 4,000 rubles to search for the remains of several individuals identified by name. The U.S. provided copies of dental records as well as physical descriptions of three specific service members. In a note dated 29 December 1951, the Soviet Foreign Ministry reported that "...the graves had been excavated, the remains investigated for identifying clues without success, and remains had been reinterred." No Americans were present during this process, which occurred at the height of the late Stalinist period. A TFR analyst, working with a range of archival sources, has identified the location of the graves of the three U.S. servicemen as graves 2, 3, and 4 in the POW cemetery, Matzicken near Heydekrug (Note: names would now be converted to Lithuanian variants), which had been in East Prussia and now lies in independent Lithuania, the government of which should be receptive to U.S. recovery efforts. This POW cemetery served the German POW camp Stalag Luft 6, Heydekrug (R-56/Q-33). We have also been able to recover photographs of the burials, with military honors, by the Germans. All three Americans were Army Air Corps NCOs. One was shot while attempting an escape (29 April 1944); the second was shot by a guard (28 May 1944); and the third died of illness (10 July 1944). TFR is pursuing the possibility of the recovery of the remains of these service members through formal channels.

7. OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES: On 25 November 1992, the Executive Secretary passed TFR an amended list of operational priorities. These eight priorities are attached as Annex B.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Develop a more systematic and exhaustive approach to field site visits on the territory of the former Soviet Union. For instance, a one-day visit to a site by the Commissioners requires a follow-up, such as the posting of a TFR-M team at the site for days/weeks upon the departure of the Commissioners so that any leads that might emerge due to publicity surrounding the visit can be intercepted and exploited immediately.

B. Continue to pursue energetically leads and opportunities in the non-Russian republics of the former Soviet Union.

ANNEX A to TASK FORCE RUSSIA BIWEEKLY REPORT of 27 NOV 92

SUBJECT: U.S. Archival and Research Sources.

1. Task Force Russia is exploring a number of U.S. sources to build supporting evidence for our inquiries in Russia. This is a list of the most useful sources to date.

2. At the **United States Archives:**

RG (Record Group) Number:

24, POW Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, WWII. 59, "Klaus Files", Information on Shootdowns; U.S. and U.S.S.R., 1951-1960. 71, POW Records of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, WWII. 92, Records of the Quartermaster, Missing Air Crews. 153, Records of the Judge Advocate General, War Crimes, Korea, and Operations Big Switch and Little Switch. 165, Records of War Department General and Special Staffs. 165, Chief of Staff Records. 165, Personnel Subject Files. 238, WWII War Crimes Records. 242, Collection of Foreign Records, 1941-46. 319, Prisoners of War, Civilian Internees and Military Personnel Recovered from the Enemy. 319, Records of the Army Staff, Army Intelligence. 319, Army Intelligence, 1941-1948. 331, Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters, WWII. 331, Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters, WWII. 332, Provost Marshal General Records. 334, Military Mission to Moscow, POW File. 335. Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Army, POW Correspondence File. 338, U.S. Army Commands, 22nd Prisoner of War/Civilian Internee Information Center, 1941-1975. 340, Records of the Secretary of the Air Force, POW Correspondence File. 341, U.S. Air Force (Air Staff) "Wringer" Reports, 1949-1955. 342, U.S. Air Force Commands, 5th Air Force Interrogation Reports. 342, U.S. Air Force Interrogations of Japanese POWs Returning from the Far East. 349, CCRAK, Records of the Combined Command for Reconnaissance Activities, Korea, 8242d Army Unit 1952-1953. 349, Far East Command, J-2 Division Intelligence 1953-54. 389, List of Repatriates-- Germany. 389, American POW Information Bureau. 389, Lists of American POWs in Germany. 389, Enemy POW Information Bureau. 389, POW Operations Division, Repatriation. 389, The Exchange With Soviet Forces of Liberated Personnel-- WWII. 389, Korean Prisoner of War Debriefs. 407, Records of the Adjutant General's Office. 407, Official Number of American Prisoners of War Captured During WWII. 407, Records of the Adjutant General's Office. 407, Official Number of American Prisoners of War Captured During WWII.

Reference Collection 2058, "RAMPS", the Recovery and Repatriation of Liberated Prisoners of War.

3. **Department of State** has relevant records in the Office of Information Services, Research Branch, Central Records, and Legal Advisor's Archives.

4. The **Naval Archives** have useful material in the Personnel Records and Ships' Logs; POW records are not segregated.

5. The **Department of Defense Still Media Records Center** has POW and war crimes photographs.

6. The **National Archives (Suitland)** has "Form 293 Files" (Individual Deceased Personnel files).

7. The **International Committee of the Red Cross,** Geneva, Switzerland, has a central tracking agency that can provide help in locating individuals, both military and civilian.

8. The **Defense Intelligence Agency** is charged with POW/MIA reporting pertaining to the Vietnam War/Southeast Asia.

9. The U.S. **Navy Casualty Office** provides the same services for the Navy as 9. above.

10. The U.S. **Marine Corps Casualty Office** provides the same services for the Marine Corps as 9. above.

11. The U.S. **Air Force Casualty Office** provides the same services for the Air Force as 9. above.

12. The **United Nations Military Armistice Commission** (UNCMAC) maintains lists of negotiation records and what information was exchanged between the UN and Communist authorities pertaining to the Korean War.

13. The U.S. **Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Office** (CMAO) has two major subordinate offices: the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI) and the Casualty Records Branch.

14. **The National Personnel Records Center/Military Records Branch** (NPRC/MRB) maintains files on service members and assists in confirming dates of service, assignments, and personnel actions.

15. The following **private organizations** have knowledgeable members, files, and newsletters through which to make inquiries:

a. The American Ex-Prisoner of War Association, Arlington, Texas.

b. New Zealand Ex-Prisoner of War Association, Christchurch, New Zealand.

c. Ex-Prisoners of War Association of Australia, Mitchell Park, South Australia.

d. National Federation of Far Eastern Prisoners of War Association, Kent, England.

e. Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

f. The Holocaust Memorial Association, Washington, D.C.

ANNEX B to TASK FORCE RUSSIA BIWEEKLY REPORT of 27 NOV 92

SUBJECT: Revised Operational Priorities

The Executive Secretary to the U.S.-Russian Joint Commission on POW/MIAs provided the following revised operational priorities to Task Force Russia on 25 November 1992:

1. Urge the Russian side to provide details on the disposition of remains of Major Posa and Capt. Dunham.

2. Continue to investigate information concerning the transfer of American POWs from North Korea to the Soviet Union.

3. Urge the Russian side to follow up (as promised by ColGen Volkogonov) on allegations concerning the transfer of American POWs from Vietnam to the Soviet Union.

4. Seek to obtain information from Vietnamese interrogations of American servicemen from Southeast Asia, with special emphasis on the "questionnaires" referred to by General Abramov.

5. Follow up on names of unaccounted for American servicemen appearing on lists of POWs from the Korean War (e.g. the 510, 71 and 54 lists).

6. Continue to seek access to archival documents related to Cold War incidents.

7. Continue to seek access to KGB/GRU files and personnel relevant to the POW/MIA issue, identify and inspect security service camps for any indication of English speakers.

8. Access should be sought to MVD's comprehensive file of fingerprint cards on GULAG inmates maintained since WWII.